

House Resolution 554

By: Representatives Smith of the 113th, Dollar of the 45th, Lunsford of the 110th, Ramsey of the 72nd, Cheokas of the 134th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending the Republic of China (Taiwan) on its recent progress in the growth of its
2 democracy and its relations with the United States; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, in 2008, Freedom House again ranked Taiwan as one of the most free states in
4 the world, and, to this day, Taiwan remains the first and only ethnic-Chinese nation to realize
5 a fully functioning democracy; and

6 WHEREAS, in May of 2008, Taiwan witnessed its second peaceful transition of political
7 power, paving the way for Taiwan to serve as a beacon of democracy to Asia and beyond;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States are long-standing allies who both deeply cherish
10 the values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; and

11 WHEREAS, the year 2009 marked the 30th anniversary of the "Taiwan Relations Act," the
12 creation of which provided the basic structure and legal foundation for the United States to
13 develop its numerous mutual relations with Taiwan; and

14 WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' ninth-largest trading partner, and the United States
15 is Taiwan's third-largest trading partner; and

16 WHEREAS, Taiwan is seeking to enter into a free trade agreement with the United States
17 to further promote trade and investment relations between the two countries; and

18 WHEREAS, Taiwan's strategic position in the Asian Pacific region makes its stability vital
19 to not only the economies in the region but also of the world; and

20 WHEREAS, today, the government of Taiwan has committed itself to achieving peace and
21 co-prosperity with mainland China by resuming bilateral talks and opening up direct flight
22 and shipping links across Taiwan Straits; and

23 WHEREAS, Taiwan is an active member in the international community with a
24 long-standing commitment to international health and humanitarian aid; and

25 WHEREAS, it is imperative for Taiwan to participate in the activities of the World Health
26 Organization for the sake of global health, particularly in light of threatening epidemic
27 diseases such as SARS, bird flu, and others.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 the members of this body commend and support the democratization efforts of the Republic
30 of China (Taiwan) as well as its efforts to join the World Health Organization and other
31 international organizations.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body hereby welcomes all opportunities to develop
33 the special bond of friendship between the United States and Taiwan and encourages further
34 cultural, educational, and business exchanges between the citizens of the United States and
35 the Republic of China (Taiwan).

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
37 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Larry R.L. Tseng,
38 Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta.